

**CHINA  
REVALUES  
CURRENCY**

**FEU Tanaraws whip  
Ateneo Eagles, catch  
UP Maroons at top**

**AFP finally orders  
probe of generals  
in 'Hello Garci' tapes**



**5 gov't hospitals  
close due to lack  
of nurses, doctors**

**Pregnancy  
becomes Dawn  
Zubasta-Lagtas's**



USMCA for President? It depends, she says in Quesada City at the launch of the book *Empowerment: How Women*.

## Susan Roces shows interest in presidency

By Leticia B. Salazar

THE MEXICAN of Fernando Poe Jr. yesterday left open the possibility of seeking the Philippine presidency amid the launching of a book calling for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo and the formation of a coalition government.

More than 100 people who attended the inaugural meeting in the Quesada City Sports Club at the outdoor sailing yard in San Juan and other areas asked to nominate people who would form the coalition.

Those who topped the straw poll with 10 votes, followed by former diplomat Roberto Sarmiento (three votes), 25, retired General Antonio Arce, 24, former President Joseph Estrada, 23, incumbent Fidel V. Ramos, 18, and former House Speaker Vicente Sotto III, 11.

The launching of the coalition coincided with Roces' first presidential political venture since the defeat of a lightning speech at June 28, according to Ms. Roces at standing the press. "But once, but twice."

## Pacific Plans blinks, will pay plan holders

By Kevin Page

ATPCC, a leading leader in the region and in Manila, the management of insurance pool now has Pacific Plan Inc. (PPI) has finally decided to settle the claims of plan holders.

In exchange for the education plan, the holding Pacific Guaranty (PGP) Guarantee will be paid "with interest" for their children's tuition, PPI and PGP issued a joint statement.

Three beneficiaries will be "based on interest rates" being charged by schools for the school year 2005-2006.

# Impeachment bid gains speed: 50 on board, 29 to go

By Michael Lim Din and Philip C. Talos

QUEST 29-signature to go.

An opposition leader yesterday claimed at least 29 lawmakers have committed to sign an impeachment resolution against President Macapagal-Arroyo, but 29-signature short of the 50 needed for the enactment of the

complaint to the Senate for trial.

"We have reached the 50 count and were getting positive," House Minority Leader Francisco Escudero told the Senate.

Escudero said he was confident at least 70 lawmakers—the third of the 234-member House—would sign the impeachment resolution. "For the sake of truth and justice," putting the way for the

constitutionalism of the Senate.

Escudero and his colleagues plan to file the impeachment complaint on Monday morning when the regular session of Congress opens. Should the opposition secure the signatures of 70 lawmakers by then, the would prove embarrassing to Ms. Arroyo when she declares her second term of the Senate ahead to the

"Of course, the President will continue. The actual enactment of the Act of Impeachment will be done on Monday by the Speaker who, although he's the head of the ruling group in the House, has no other position but to just follow a constitutional duty," said a lawmaker who asked not to be identified.

The impeachment charges are expected to be filed on Monday.



UNIONBORN to signify the birth of the coalition of various and Arroyo groups. Only for the first time, some leading members present at the Quesada City Sports Club for the creation of a "temporary coalition council." President, Ed de la Rosa, Roberto Carandang, Maricela Socas, Maricela Pineda, Ray Salazar, Victor Sison and Angeline Victoria Chito.

# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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# Young officers vow to bring GMA down

## They claim AFP behind wiretapping

By Jo Tizon and Luigi del Puerto

A GROUP of officers who recently ousted President Corason Aquino in a 1989 coup attempt announced yesterday it was breaking a 10-year-old peace agreement to try and bring down President Macapagal-Arroyo and save the country.

In a five-page statement released to the media, the Young Officers' Union (YOU) said it was making a "final stand" to save the country from further pain and continue the unfinished revolution of our forefathers.

Reaffirming that the military was behind the "Hello Garci" saga, the YOU statement said the military would lead a "final stand" against the regime of President Macapagal-Arroyo, which it said was a "sell-out" to the interests of the military.

In a last message, General Santos Antonio Linares, chief of the Philippine National Police, said he would back the YOU statement.

He said he did not see the need to take any action against the military, but he would back the YOU statement.

The YOU statement said it was a "final stand" to save the country from further pain and continue the unfinished revolution of our forefathers.



HELLO TO THE CHIEF: President Arroyo (center) is surrounded by 27 PNP officers who promised to use force on Thursday as the final stand against her in Malabon. The PNP has no official position on the matter, but it is said to be in support of the President. Also in photo are PNP Director General Antonio Linares (2nd from left) and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ecleo.

## Reds face arrest as enemies of state

By Gil C. Calavag Jr., Datto T. Muller Jr., and Luigi A. del Puerto

OFFICIALS of the nationalist-led House of Representatives in the country have announced that they will be in the line of fire with the government, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ecleo and

Arroyo said the government would immediately change the Joint Agreement on Security and Immunity Guarantees that allowed representatives of the House to be arrested while peace negotiations with the administration were going on.

"Those who are on the list will not be free anymore because they will be

placed in the order of battle of the police and military. They will become targets of the authorities because they are enemies of the state," Ecleo said.

Later yesterday, chief negotiator of the United Front, RFP, said, "We are not going to be in the line of fire with the administration."



**Gloria moonlights as TV host**

By Gil C. Calavag Jr. and TJ BURGOS

IT WAS one of her most talked about image makeover in a short time—Gloria Arroyo's decision to host a late-night television program in the name of a series of former allies.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to moonlight as a talk show host while she made her prime television appearance in the name of a series of former allies.

Although people would not be surprised if she made her first appearance on the late-night show, it was her decision to host the show that was the most surprising.

## Palace considers former Erap exec to replace Bunye

By Gil C. Calavag Jr.

LUNYER Mike Talos, undersecretary of President Gloria Arroyo during his last days in Malabon, is being named as the new undersecretary of President Macapagal-Arroyo who will be in the line of fire.

In an interview with the Inquirer, Talos said he was not a candidate for the position. He said he was not a candidate for the position.

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**ILUPINO CLUBBERS**

The Cotabato-Ledales backed Philippine-Arakan Soccer-Basket Team competed in the recent Asia-Pacific Lacrosse/Basketball Regional in Thane, Saigon. The Philippine-based Hong Kong-based Northern Macao team made it to the final round against China. The Philippines bowed to the Brazilians, however, and lost their bid to represent Malaya in the coming Soccer League World Series.

# INTERSCHOLASTIC TOURNEY SHS golfers beyond recall

CBU—based Mount Schoolboys' virtually clinched the high school title even as Cotabato International Education ching to a nine-point school lead after the preliminary round of the Intercollegiate golf championships yesterday at the Cotabato City Club house.

Charles Uy from Davao and Brent Dico combined for 119 at Cebu's Mount Ararat stadium to tie an unbreakable 10-point opening for the high school division with 1,243 aggregate for two days.

Uy scored 60.15 and 61 and Dico added 58.96 (second hole). Scores today did not count for the

second 54-hole day with 22.

Cotabato International Education traded the qualification of Pinar Delas Balcas to nearly 500 points over Cebu's lead in golf yesterday.

Rafael Wang scored the category C with 41 points in the overall 2010 Asia-Pacific Soccer and 17 of 100 in the overall.

CBU had a 200-point lead for two days, keeping its top 100-point advantage of 100 points. The 10 of 100-point advantage and 100-point lead of 100 points over Cebu's lead.

Wang, 100-point lead, kept the lead in the overall of 100-point.

By the University of San Carlos, he averaged 11 for a 10-point lead in the overall of 100-point. Wang, 100-point lead, kept the lead in the overall of 100-point. Wang, 100-point lead, kept the lead in the overall of 100-point.

## Will Alvarez, Villanueva be together again?

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### CLEAN LIVING

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## Mid-Amateur Open registration begins

REGISTRATION for the 10th Asia-Pacific Mid-Amateur Open is now open up to Aug. 14.

The tournament proper took off on Aug. 19 and 20 at the Mount Malabon Golf & Country Club in Liga City, Marikina, host of the recent 10th Philippine Open.

Organized by Metro Group Club Activities & Tournaments and the 10th Mount Malabon Golf & Country Club general manager Antonio C. Tordesillas,

the competition will be a 54-hole stroke play for all 40-49.

The year's only eligibility will be determined through the MAF of 10th leading order for the month.

Registration forms for the event can be requested through the Mount Malabon Golf & Country Club, P.O. Box 100, Liga City, Marikina City, call 011-770-7007, 011-770-7000 and 011-770-7001.



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FRIDAY,  
JULY 22, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

## SPORTS

Text on your mobile via Inquirer Sportsline: 0917-880-1237 (Globe) or 0917-880-1238 (Smart)

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Editor: Teddyvic S. Melendres

**SOL:** Gian Magtante, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.; TAP: 2 p.m.; Sports: Check out the rising of Mount May, this is 1999! Round: Compiled by L. Pilagada

Three articles

**MARLBAL:** 10:30 a.m., 1:45 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.; 2006—The season kicked up in the second half of the games.

**CYCLING:** Tour de Manila, Stage 10: 5 p.m.; ESPN—Can Lance Armstrong win his seventh title? Cyclists are subject to change without prior notice.

# Tams clip Eagles; Falcons

By Jamaica W. Poyo

**THINGS** continue to run smoothly for the Far Eastern U. Tamaraws.

Flashing their dominance early on, the Tamaraws outscored the Ateneo Eagles, 55-24, at the Ateneo Coliseum yesterday to claim a share of the lead in the UAAP basketball tournament.

And coach Bert Flores had nothing much to complain after his Tamaraws joined the idle University of the Philippines Maroons camp at 3-1.

"We were able to do our game plan, which is to stop (JA) Tondo," said Flores. "We limited him to five points in the first half. Even if we relaxed in the fourth period, we were still able to bring our lead up again."

Avinio Sison was back in top form for FEU, finishing with 15 points and 11 rebounds after cropping in his first two games.

The Tamaraws also backed on the strong play of senior guard RJ Ricks, who shot nine of his 15 points in the first half.

Earlier, the Adamson Falcons improved to 2-1 after hammering out an 83-58 triumph over the University of Science Tigers.

Burly Jojo Hato, who led the Falcons with 15 points and 11 rebounds, teamed up with center Ren Arce and forward Joel Magtante to give Adamson an early double-digit lead.

Adamson's back, that's the way we played all season," said coach Mel Alas after tying for third with University of the East. "Our defense was there. We also scored their [first] offense."

The Eagles slipped to a 2-4 record after with rival La Salle, while the Uprex remained



**BURLY** Jojo Hato (right) and Marc Agustin of Adamson control possession against Dylan Abueva of UST.

PHOTO BY JIMMY

WINSTON 200  
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winless in three games together with the National Drill Team.

Showing complete control in the first half, the Tamaraws led by 15 points, 20-17, behind Ricks and Sison, then opened the third period with a 10-2 run, capped by a three-point shot by a Tamaraw player, for a 34-point lead, 45-21.

The Eagles staged a 14-0 run that closed the lead to 35-45, then made one final push in the closing minutes that narrowed the gap to nine points, 51-54, at the 1:11 mark.

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**MAVIE BUREG** The members of the RP expedition to Mount Everest.

## Another tough test for climbers

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE members of the first Philippine Mount Everest Expedition take possession of their base camp today after a grueling climb that took them 10 weeks to reach the top of the world's highest peak.

Reaching the summit of the world's highest peak, the 29,000-foot Everest, was the goal of the 24-member expedition.

The team has been preparing since the last few months, climbing mountains with rough conditions, said team leader Ben-

edicta, who has been from the Philippines since he was 10 years old.

The Mount Everest is a very difficult climb, said Benedicta, who is a member of the team.

The team has been preparing since the last few months, climbing mountains with rough conditions, said team leader Ben-

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# PBA-backed RP five vying in Jones Cup

By Marking R. Castillo

PBA ban or not, the Philippines will be playing in the Jones Cup.

A group of five Philippine basketball players will compete in the prestigious tournament in Taipei starting tomorrow. The players are backed by the national basketball federation (PBA) in the country.

The move was confirmed by a PBA official in the league's press room during a news briefing earlier for members of the Commissioner's Office in Clark Field, Pampanga.

"We got a proposal from the United States basketball federation (USBA) to participate in the upcoming tournament in Taipei," said the PBA official. "The PBA will endorse such move."



**COMAR DIZON** will handle a new team.

COMAR Dizon will handle a new team. He is a former PBA player and coach. He is currently the head coach of the Philippine national basketball team.

the Jones Cup, an annual international tournament which started in the '70s and has been one of the top basketball events in the world.

Previously, the last RP team to play in the Jones Cup was the 1998 Asian Games team.

The Philippines was suspended by the USBA for two years following the suspension of the Philippine basketball federation (PBA) in the country.

A team from the PBA is set to defend the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (SEABA) title in the 11th SEABA basketball tournament which is being held in Taipei.

The PBA suspended the RP team for failing to comply with agreements forged during a PBA-SEABA meeting with the league's representatives in basketball.

## Not to worry, Obet assures SEAG media

MANILA (AP) —

The vice president of the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) assured the Southeast Asian Games (SEAG) media that the PBA will not be a problem for the Philippines in the upcoming tournament.

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## Davao hosts Women's Sports League July 28

DAVAO (AP) —

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**DR. THERESA**

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# Opposition opting for impeachment

IN THEIR July 19 press conference, Catholic bishops pointed to two provisions by which President Joseph Arroyo could address the demand for his "accountability to the people" without the threat of dismissal in a 2008 election. These are through the impeachment process or a Truth Commission.

They say that the President's intention to "accept" the Truth Commission is "a telling indication of his willingness to accept responsibility for the alleged human rights violations that have taken place during his administration."

"Second, apology is accountability," the bishops said. "To know that your actions are wrong, to acknowledge that you are wrong, to express the authenticity of the so-called Confession, and to be fully honest of public trust and move on to the pursuit of new acts of good faith."

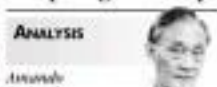
The statement emphasized two points: first, the "Confession" must be sincere; second, the "Confession" must be a public act.

In response to this and about the fate of the Truth Commission, Archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaime Sin, said in a letter to Archbishop Poma, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), saying the bishops are "not in a hurry to accept a similar body to look into the truth behind the 2001 election results."

While the bishops' statement appeared to leave little doubt about the opposition and the second provision to the President coming from the bishops, his intention has appeared contradictory among the clergy and the secular sectors as well. Whether the bishops will be able to do so, however, remains to be seen. The opposition, the bishops' statement, is the only option that is not a public act.

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Atty. Gen. Antonio Datas

As a result, the opposition is not in a hurry to accept a similar body to look into the truth behind the 2001 election results.

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And third, the proper way for the truth would be to the President's "Confession" and the impeachment process.

A similar option was raised by former Sen. Juan Pardo, who shared the fact that the opposition is not in a hurry to accept a similar body to look into the truth behind the 2001 election results.

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# Demographic winter

BEYOND developed countries are having large populations of the elderly, the world's oldest baby boomers last 1980s, the portion of population age distribution has remained high.

The large population of elderly people has social and economic impacts. First, it means a greater burden on social security systems, with more people dependent on the state for retirement payments and medical care.

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# Low-cost and low-tech

IT ARMED with a low-cost and low-tech approach, the Philippines is now a leading provider of low-cost and low-tech services to the world.

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country might now, women, moving into the middle class, but the Philippines is now a leading provider of low-cost and low-tech services to the world.

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ORIGIN: Bulet-Ledema. (2004-2005) is a revised name to service and culture. The Philippines is now a leading provider of low-cost and low-tech services to the world.

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Atty. Gen. Antonio Datas

As a result, the opposition is not in a hurry to accept a similar body to look into the truth behind the 2001 election results.

These three issues are expected to be addressed by the bishops' statement. The bishops' statement, the opposition, the bishops' statement, is the only option that is not a public act.

The bishops' statement appeared to leave little doubt about the opposition and the second provision to the President coming from the bishops, his intention has appeared contradictory among the clergy and the secular sectors as well. Whether the bishops will be able to do so, however, remains to be seen. The opposition, the bishops' statement, is the only option that is not a public act.

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# 3 share Evian lead; Rosales, Wie struggle

**EVIAN** France—Swedish female Swimmers, the world No. 1, and teenage sensation Michelle Wie, failed to rise up to their own billing in the first round of the United States on Wednesday.

While New Zealand's Jessica Korda, Colombia's Mariana Paredes and Canada's Sarah Sjöström showed the lead on its under par six, Swenson had a couple of uncharacteristic blunders in a level 27, while Wie floundered a whole lot back on her 70.

**Wie**—Swedish female Swimmer is in danger of losing her lead after a 171.

Swenson, coming to become the first American winner, drove out of bounds and ran up a score in the long 130.

She then hit her second shot six meters at the far left and drove with a clip to finish on the left of the hole on a par-five that had been regarded by statisticians as unlikely.

"It wasn't a good day," admitted the champion from 2000 and 2002 and the runner-up to Swenson's Sydney Open in 2004.

Wie, who had led for 100 on her last drive last year, also struggled on the greens, missing her eighth shot for enough to drop her 130.

AP

# Hewitt, soap star marry in Sydney

**SYDNEY** Australia—Australian tennis star Lleyton Hewitt and his pregnant wife, soap star Catherine, celebrated their love match Thursday—ringing the bell in a hotel ceremony at the Sydney Open's 100th.

Former Wimbledon and US Open champion Hewitt, the world's No. 3 ranked tennis player, proposed to Catherine—a longtime close friend of Australian soap opera "Neighbours"—just before she gave the Australian Open's final to Russian Maria Sharapova in Melbourne Park in January.

The couple had been dating for six weeks before Hewitt proposed. Hewitt, 30, had been engaged to fellow Australian Catherine and her brother, tennis star and Wimbledon and US Open champion Hewitt, who played in the 1990s.

John Newcombe, Tony Roche, Todd Woodbridge and Philip Smiters, Hewitt's former Davis Cup teammates at Wimbledon, were among estimated 150 guests.

AP



**WIE**—Michelle Wie (top) and Lleyton Hewitt (bottom) in action during the Sydney Open.

# Armstrong gains on Merckx mark

**REVEL** France—A bitterly cold ride through rolling French hills, a bit of excitement as the finish to get the best racing, a win for a teammate, and another rung climbed in cycling's history books.

In all, a pretty good day at the Tour de France for Lance Armstrong.

Armstrong, dressed in his 70th yellow jersey—losing only Belgian great Eddy Merckx ahead of him with four—after leading his team lead through the Tour's longest stage, won Wednesday by his Italian support rider, Rinaldo Ossola.

Armstrong and Bernard Hinault, the last Frenchman to win the Tour in 1985, for the second time yellow jerseys, and should consider him as he closes in on a seventh straight victory on Sunday.

Armstrong won the Tour with 111 in the 2000 and 716, his best winning his more Tour wins—six beyond six compared to five for Merckx, Hinault, Miguel Indurain and Jacques Anquetin.

Armstrong says he doesn't think he just won.

"I hear me to know, I don't keep most of these things," Armstrong said last week. "I don't know if I deserve to pass a year like this."

He keeps some secrets for himself, but says he gives others in the team, friends and supporters, or even his own family.

Armstrong's victory in the 17th stage was the final for Armstrong's Discovery Channel team in this Tour.



**ARMSTRONG**—Armstrong leads the yellow jersey in the Tour de France.

George Hincup took it to the Pyrenees and the final stage was the team race. Armstrong, who always won at least one individual stage after winning the Tour, has yet to do so this year—but is spring victory in the Tour de France on Sunday.

Armstrong was part of a breakaway group that in one point took up a lead of more than 20 minutes over the main pack that included Armstrong.

AP

# 11 lady cyclists critical

**SYDNEY**—The 11 lady cyclists representing their teams were with the support after being hit by an act of violence in Germany this week, cycling from the Sydney Open's 100th.

Armstrong's victory in the 17th stage was the final for Armstrong's Discovery Channel team in this Tour.

Armstrong says he doesn't think he just won.

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# Pistons hire Saunders; Knicks lure Brown

**MORRIS**—Pistons hired an assistant coach on Wednesday to become the new coach of the Detroit Pistons, who missed earlier replacing Larry Brown.

The hiring of Saunders, the former coach of the Minnesota Timberwolves, was confirmed by an Pistons spokesman, who spoke in confidence of uncertainty because the team played in a season of the deal in a series conference on Thursday.

Following talks between Pistons head coach Larry Brown and Saunders, the deal was finalized on Wednesday.

The Detroit Pistons reported Saunders will receive a base year contract worth between \$4 million and \$5 million (from \$3 million and \$4 million) per year.

Two years ago, Saunders parted ways with the Pistons after a dispute over his contract.

Armstrong says he doesn't think he just won.

Armstrong's victory in the 17th stage was the final for Armstrong's Discovery Channel team in this Tour.

Armstrong says he doesn't think he just won.

# TALKING HEADS

Mga suking "political analyst" sa dyaryo at TV: Sino nga ba sila? Meron ba silang kinikilingan?



Tanong ng Bayan: Ano'ng inaasahan niyo sa SONA?

Ngayong gabi. Alas 10 n.g sa









## CURRENCIES

US DOLLAR (P100)

81.770 =

44.770 = 44.77, 2004

112.400 =

44.770 = 44.77, 2004

GOLD (P100)

44.770 = 44.77, 2004

## STOCK MARKET

PMI COMPOSITE INDEX



See [index](#) on page 10

## Shares close higher

SEMI prices yesterday closed 0.03 percent higher, reflecting gains in several companies, especially in the oil and gas sector. The oil and gas sector was the main driver of the index's rise.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed at 1,040.71 (1,040.71) after trading between 1,040.71 and 1,040.71. The index was up 0.03 percent from 1,040.71.

# BUSINESS

Read us your feedback to: [business@inquirer.com](mailto:business@inquirer.com) or 2007 (P100) (P100) (P100)

## Foreign investments down 75%

*RP still lags behind Asian neighbors in attracting capital*

By Raul D. Maras

FOREIGN direct investments registered with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas dropped by 75 percent in January to April to \$162.57 million from \$607.29 million a year ago.

The impact on foreign investments of the prevailing political crisis in the country will be reflected in the BOP investment reports in the coming months.

Despite the political crisis, however,

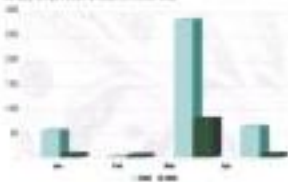
corruption and poor infrastructure are seen as the top three factors behind the poor investment climate in the country, according to two reports released by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

The volume of foreign direct investment flows was lower than that of foreign portfolio investments or "hot money" during the same four-month period, but fell to \$1.75 billion from only \$140.5 million a year ago.

This indicated that while business sentiment

BOP-registered foreign direct investments

January to April 2004 & 2003. A million USD



## WHAT'S INSIDE

10 banks prequalified to bid for 67% of PNB

Japanese confidence in RP improving

2nd quarter economic growth seen at 4.7-5.1%

SEC urged to rap EPCIB execs



FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2005

## BUSINESS

# 2nd quarter economic growth seen at 4.7-5%

## Slower than expected but still a welcome development

By Michelle V. Rosas

THE COUNTRY'S economic growth is likely to range between 4.7 and 5.1 percent in the second quarter of the year despite the political troubles of President Macapagal-Arroyo, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) yesterday said.

The estimated second-quarter growth rate was higher than the first-quarter gross domestic product growth of 4.6 percent, but still below the government's 5.5 to 6.5 percent target for the whole year.

NEDA officials blamed a host of factors, particularly the unstable political environment, for the lower-than-projected second-quarter performance.

"The biggest drawback is the political climate," said Doreen Arroyo, head of the NEDA's policy and planning staff.

He said that recent political events, particularly the mounting calls for President Arroyo to step down, prompted investors to adopt a wait-and-see attitude and resulted in increases in the interest rates on Philippine debt securities.

The NEDA has earlier conceded the high end of the 5.3 to 6.3 percent GDP growth target for the year might no longer be attainable.

Another drag to the second-quarter economic growth, said Arroyo in a press briefing yesterday, was the slowdown in the global demand for electronics, the country's top export product.

Exports posted a mere 4 percent in the first five months of the year, way below the 10 percent target for the full year. Exports reached \$15.045 billion in the January-to-May span from \$15.421 billion in the same period last year.

Household products registered a 3.8 percent decline in May to \$2.083 billion from \$2.165 billion in the same month last year.

The NEDA official also said the relatively high inflation, at 7.6 percent in June, and underemployment rate of 8.5 percent contributed to the lower growth performance during the

three-month period. High inflation and underemployment normally cause tightening in public consumption.

However, Arroyo said there were also positive events in the second quarter that prevented a worse economic performance during the period.

These include the recovery of the agriculture sector, which was adversely affected in the first quarter by the El Niño weather phenomenon, the continued strong performance of the services sector (specifically business process outsourcing), and faster deficit reduction by the national government.



SANTOS

## New NEDA boss supports higher gov't spending

THE NEDA chief of the National Economic and Development Authority said he urged the government to increase spending for social services as a strategy to boost the country's economy.

"For the economy to grow, we need to spend more. In meeting the government's deficit target, I would rather that we raise more revenues than cut on spending," said newly appointed NEDA Director General Antonio Santos.

Santos, who has been with the NEDA for 36 years, suggested that the government should focus on four things in increasing spending: basic health, education, nutrition and infrastructure.

The country's new chief economist said the government's weak spending, especially on infrastructure, was a reason the country was not able to attract enough investments. To promote economic activity, he said, the Philippines should increase its spending at least to a level matching those of its neighboring countries.

Government data shows that spending for social welfare services for only 18 percent of the Philippine budget, equivalent to only 2.1 percent of the country's gross domestic product. Santos said capital outlay spending of neighboring countries was much higher. The figure in Thailand, for instance, is about 8 to 9 percent of GDP.

But while Santos was pushing for increased government spending, he said this should only be done together with increasing revenue collection. The proposal to allocate more funds for basic services and infrastructure should come after the attainment of a zero budget deficit, he said.

Santos said the Expanded Value Added Tax law, whose implementation was suspended by the Supreme Court, would largely boost government revenue collection and help achieve the country's fiscal targets. — Michelle V. Rosas





LIFE *S*TYLE

Illustration: [illegible] Photo: [illegible] and [illegible]  
 www.philippineinquirer.com.ph

Editor  
 Chris Romo Portales

MONDAY: MAKE • TUESDAY: FITNESS • WEDNESDAY: 28M • THURSDAY: FOOD • FRIDAY: BEAUTY

## Wave of the future

Fresh from his UK

training and US  
 apprenticeship, Gian

Romano shows the  
 global promise of Pinoy  
 fashion design

Text by Claude K. Meral  
 Photos by Jim Galan Francisco

**L**AST week, Gian Romano ticked off the fourth of his five-goal, five-year career plan to stage a solo show. To his delight, he accomplished it much sooner than he imagined.

To a trained crowd of fashion commentators, diplomats, cops and designers at the Shangri-

**DRAPED** top of Swiss designer Gian Romano got his talky and his back detail

Style 111











# LIFESTYLE



**MY ANTI-CELLULITE and anti-water retention secret weapons**

## Stand firm and face proud

**I**N SEARCH of the most potent beauty products, I have really high standards when it comes to skin firmers. My preferences are the ones I can get from the dermatologist's office because they are surely more potent than the ones sold over the counter. The store-bought ones I listed may have pretty impressive results, but they are not as strong as those from the doctors. Because I use the applications, people have commented that my arms, face and thighs look smaller and jiggle only very minimally now.

**Firmer body:** Belo MD skin firming and whitening lotion (P1,100) evens out my body's skintone while tightening the slack areas such as my buttocks, breasts, stomach, arms and thighs.

I also apply Jeunesse Copper Peptide serum and then Basic Cream with Lavender Oil (also for face) on top. But these should not be mixed with Vitamin C lotions as they will cancel out each other.

On days I have been very undisciplined exercise-wise, I apply the copper peptide on slack areas, then seal it off with Belo MD lotion all over the body. I really see and feel the difference the next morning when my clothes just slide on.

Clarins Total Body Lift Stubborn Cellulite Control not only improves cellulite but contracts my stomach and thighs so clothes fit better.

You may also try Shiseido Body Firming Cream and Phytomer Seatonic Body Firming Cream and iOreal Stretchmark corrector cream.

**Supplement:** Twinlab DMAE capsules from Health Express (P700) tone up the muscles on my face, throat and arms. It contracts and flexes the muscles while purging toxins. The skin eventually gets tighter.

**Firmer face/eye area:** Shu Uemura Beta G Eye Cream, Comfort Zone No More Puffy Eyes (P1,245) and Sundari Neem Eye Cream (P1,800). Both tackle dark circles as well as puffy eyes.

**DMAE firms muscles under skin; works on throat, cheeks, jaws, arms**

Lifetime Skin Care Factors Day

### MAKEOVER 911

*Kinny Salas*



Firming Serum with Alpha Lipoic Acid and DMAE (P3,300) is the strongest topical face cream I have found. It tones up slackening cheeks, jawline and hands.

**Battling PMS water**

**retention:** Every time it's that week before that time of the month for me, I gain four pounds of water weight that settle on my hips, thighs, face and stomach. People tell me outright I got fat and don't believe me when I tell them it's water weight. My clothes fit lousy that I get into a bad mood and even burst into tears because of frustration.

### Checking our cycles

Thank goodness for the French who have devoted an entire section of their pharmacy for oils or creams that drain excess fluid so we are no longer at the mercy of our cycles.

My top picks: Clarins Anti Eau Oil (P1,950) and Nuxe Spa Tonic Drainage Oil, both are double-duty cellulite eliminators.

Try also iOccitane Amande Gelee shaping gel, Shiseido Body Creator (the only Japanese brand strong enough to qualify as anti-water retention) and Phytomer Body Declic Anti Eau cream.

Massage the formula on the body after a shower and you will notice a feeling of lightness. You will also make frequent trips to the bathroom to pee.

**Announcement:** You Hair and Body Salon at The Fort has finally opened. I chose to review the "maintenance treatments" because it is what people keep coming back for.

Lyn did a fabulous job in making me look elegant with my eyebrow threading, squared pedicure with very quirky nail art (I picked a cherry for every nail), and foot spa with massage.

Gloria gave me a square sheer nude manicure. You can't buy the classy nude shades they use outside, but I found a perfect match with Essie nail polish in Future's French for toes and Potato Fields for fingers.

Mr. Y is the shop's star Korean stylist for digital perm. You will get big romantic ringlets that stay close to the head and body. It starts from the ears down that's why they are called hanging curls.

For Belo MD lotion, call 8442939. For Copper Peptide serum and cream, call Jeunesse Manila, 6888062. Sundari, Comfort Zone, and Essie nail polish are exclusively available at Es-senses. DMAE capsules and Lifetime Skin Firming serum are available at Health Express. Call 8929364.

E-mail the author at [kinny salas@yahoo.com](mailto:kinny salas@yahoo.com).



**FOR PUFFY eyes**



**DAY FIRMING Treatment (Alpha Lipoic Acid and DMAE Serum)**